

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

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Action

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Authority NND 901079  
S, HR-m/SG, KAR, Date 5/23/91

Control:  
Rec'd:

18639

March 30, 1959

5:06 p.m.

7:24

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24

FROM: Berlin  
TO: Secretary of State  
NO: 829, March 30, 9 p.m.

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT 829, PRIORITY BONN 741, ROUTINE MOSCOW 257,  
LONDON 168, PARIS 208.

BONN ALSO PASS PRIORITY USAFE (WISEBADEN) 38, USAFE ADVON  
(RAMSTEIN) UNNUMBERED, POLAD USAREUR (ROUTINE) 234.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINCEUR (THURSTON AND WEST).

Reference: A. Berlin 827 to Department.

B. Bonn's 2160 to Department.

(1) At 1340 hours March 30 Soviet Duty Controller BASC handed American Duty Controller written protest re high altitude flights described reference telegram (A). Our translation Soviet protest follows:

BEGIN TEXT

On 27 March 1959, the American airplane C-130, (number and call sign 50011), under the control of Crew Commander Sondrad (correct name Saunders), not paying any attention to the explicit objections of the Soviet section of BASC, flew from Frankfurt/Maine to Berlin and returned altitude of 7,650 and 6,000 meters which altitudes are not provided for in the presently existing regulations for flights in the air corridors. As a result of that he met with patrolling Soviet fighter planes at an altitude of 7,500 meters. They tried to show the serious violation of the presently existing rules committed by your plane. This violation could have brought about a collision with the planes, which were flying at that time in the mentioned altitude and could have caused destruction of equipment

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-2- 829, March 30, 9 p.m., from Berlin.

equipment and loss of lives. The Soviet section of BASC warned you about it in as much as it could not guarantee the safety of flight of the American plane at mentioned altitudes since flights of Soviet planes were conducted within these limits.

Your reply that "the American side does not need Soviet guarantees and in spite of everything will use altitudes at its own discretion" was made without regard to the fact, that safe flights in the air corridors can be conducted only with guarantees from the Soviet section.

In connection with the above, the Soviet section of BASC is filing a vigorous protest and demands an explanation of the unprecedented violation by the Americans of the order and the regulations pertaining to flights in the corridors, which (regulations) were worked out in the course of many years of practical experience. In addition to that, the Soviet section warns, that a repetition of similar violations could result in undesirable consequences for which the American side will be completely responsible.

END TEXT.

(2) Written protest (reference telegram B) delivered 1342 hours March 29.

OUFLER

SAH/7

Note: Mr. McKiernan (GER) informed 5:40 p.m., 3/30/59, FMH.

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